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5   What is claimed is:

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1. A method for providing a User interface for use in a video decoder for processing a video program including encoded digital packetized data representative of a sequence of individual images, comprising the steps of:

10   generating a menu from stored data representative of a pre-formed menu containing a menu icon permitting User selection of data format conversion of said encoded digital packetized data from a read-only data format to a different recordable data format;

generating navigation parameters compatible with said recordable data

15   format in response to User selection of said menu icon; and

incorporating said navigation parameters in output data.

2. A User interface system for processing a video program including encoded digital packetized data representative of a sequence of individual images,

20   comprising:

a menu generator for generating a menu from stored data representative of a pre-formed menu containing an inactive menu icon;

a processor for activating said inactive menu icon by associating an active command with said inactive menu icon in response to a signal indicating

25   addition of a video program related feature; and

a navigation processor linking said activated menu icon with said active command enabling User operation of said program related feature in response to User selection of said activated menu icon.

30   3. A User interface system according to claim 2 wherein

said pre-formed menu includes a plurality of inactive menu icons representing a selected set of predetermined video program related features for addition, and said activating processors selects one of said inactive menu icons in response to a signal indicating addition of a video program related feature.

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4. A User interface system according to claim 2 wherein

said pre-formed menu contains a menu icon permitting User selection of data format conversion of said encoded digital packetized data from a first data format to a different second data format.

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5. A User interface system according to claim 4 wherein

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5   said first data format is a read-only data format and said different second data format is a recordable data format.

6. A system according to claim 2, wherein
said stored data representative of a pre-formed menu is constrained to a
10   predetermined set of parameters including at least one of, (a) a defined start address of said representative data, (b) a defined end address of said representative data, (c) a defined size of said representative data, (d) a fixed menu language, and (e) defined menu icon text labels.

15   7. A system according to claim 2, wherein
said navigation processor links said activated menu icon with one of a constrained set of video program related features in response to User selection of said activated menu icon.

20   8. A User interface system according to claim 2 wherein
said inactive menu icon is invisible and is rendered visible by said menu generator in response to said signal indicating addition of a video program related feature.

25   9. A User interface system according to claim 2 wherein
said pre-formed menu is an existing User operational menu containing an inactive menu icon.

10. A User interface system according to claim 2 wherein
30   said activated menu icon supports User function selection associated with a video program and is activated in response to a signal indicating at least one of, (a) recording of said video program and (b) format conversion of said video program.

11. A User interface system according to claim 2 wherein
35   said processor activates said inactive menu icon by substituting said active command for an inactive command associated with said inactive menu icon.

5   12. A User interface system for use in a video decoder processing a video program including encoded digital packetized data representative of a sequence of individual images, comprising:

        a menu generator for generating a menu from stored data representative of a pre-formed menu, said stored data having at least one of (a) a predetermined size

10   and (b) a predetermined memory location;

        a processor for customizing said pre-formed menu by selecting a video program processing feature for incorporation in said video decoder in response to User generated data; and

        a navigation processor linking a menu icon in said pre-formed menu

15   with a function involved in said program processing feature in response to said User generated data.

        13. A User interface system according to claim 12 wherein

        said pre-formed menu includes a plurality of inactive menu icons

20   representing a selected set of predetermined video program related features for addition, and said navigation processor links one of said menu icons to a selected one of said set of predetermined video program related features in response to said User generated data.

25   14. A User interface system according to claim 12 wherein

        said pre-formed menu contains an invisible inactive menu icon and said invisible inactive menu icon is rendered visible by said menu generator in response to said User generated data.

30   15. A User interface system according to claim 12 wherein

        said pre-formed menu contains an inactive menu icon and said inactive menu icon is activated by said customizing processor to support User function selection associated with a video program and is activated in response to a signal indicating at least one of, (a) recording of said video program and (b) format

35   conversion of said video program.

16. A User interface system for use in a video decoder processing a video program including encoded digital packetized data representative of a sequence of individual images, comprising:

a menu generator for generating a menu from stored data representative of a pre-formed menu and said pre-formed menu includes a plurality of inactive menu icons representing a selected set of predetermined video program related features for addition; and

a processor for customizing said pre-formed menu in response to User generated data by

selecting a video program processing feature for incorporation in said video decoder and

linking one of said menu icons to a selected one of said set of predetermined video program related features.

17. A User interface system according to claim 16 wherein said inactive menu icons are invisible and are rendered visible by said menu generator in response to said User generated data.

18. A system according to claim 16, wherein said stored data representative of a pre-formed menu is constrained to a predetermined set of parameters including at least one of, (a) a defined start address of said representative data, (b) a defined end address of said representative data, (c) a defined size of said representative data, (d) a fixed menu language, and (e) defined menu icon text labels.

19. A method for generating a graphical User interface for use in a video decoder for processing a video program including encoded digital packetized data representative of a sequence of individual images, comprising the steps of:

generating a menu from stored data representative of a pre-formed menu containing an inactive menu icon;

activating said inactive menu icon by associating an active command with said inactive menu icon in response to a signal indicating addition of a video program related feature; and

linking said activated menu icon with said active command enabling User operation of said program related feature in response to User selection of said activated menu icon.

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20. A User interface system according to claim 19 wherein in said generating step

said pre-formed menu contains a menu icon permitting User selection of data format conversion of said encoded digital packetized data from a first data format to a different second data format.

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21. A User interface system according to claim 20 wherein

said first data format is a read-only data format and said different second data format is a recordable data format.